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CIA 4 Chile

(orig under Prouty)

PROGRAM All Things Considered...

STATION WETA FM
NPR Network

DATE March 22, 1973 5:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

AN INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL FLETCHER PROUTY

MIKE WATERS: But, first, in 1947, Congress passed the National Security Act which set up an executive agency charged with the evaluation and dissemination of intelligence information to top officers of the government and, in the words of the act, "to perform services of common concern, as directed from time to time by the President."

That's the legal role of the Central Intelligence Agency. But since its creation, the CIA has become much more. Although the law does not give the CIA the power to gather intelligence, this has become its major role. The way this intelligence is gathered and what's done with it is a matter of concern for many people, among them retired Air Force Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty. Colonel Prouty has written a book called "The Secret Team: The CIA and Its Allies in Control of the U. S. and the World."

Rich Adams talked with Colonel Prouty today about the growing power and influence of the CIA.

RICH ADAMS: Throughout your book, you cite examples of the CIA making political events happen rather than just interpreting them; the whole prospect of our intervention in Vietnam, which you cite as being initiated by the CIA. And, well, even yesterday an example. The vice president of International Telephone & Telegraph telling a congressional committee that the CIA approached ITT, and they agreed together to ask the White House to intervene against the Chilean government in 1970.

Now isn't this sort of getting completely out of control at that point when the agency begins to make events rather than interpret them?

COLONEL L. FLETCHER PROUTY: See, this is why I call the book "The Secret Team." I could have called it the "CIA," you know. But it isn't just the CIA. Where does it stop? What's the link between the CIA and big business? What's the link between CIA and the academic world, or many other areas?